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THE

CAVE OF DEATH.

ANELEGY.

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Bhe 1780 only

HE (

CAVE OF DEATH.

AN

E L E G Y.

INSCRIBED TO THE

MEMORY OF THE DECEASED RELATIONS

OF THE

AUTHOR.

Nunc ultro ad cineres ipfius, et ossa parentis

Haud equidem fine mente reor, fine numine Divûm,

Adsumus.————

Virg. Æn. Lib. 5. v. 55. &c.

CANTERBURY

Printed for the AUTHOR,

And fold by SIMMONS and KIRKBY.



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following lines were written in memory of the deceased relations of the author, and most of the incidents are not the result of poetical imagination, but real matters of sact, which occurred nearly in the same order of time, and in the same manner, in which they are here represented. Such a peculiarity, while it renders this little piece more interesting as a samily memoir, may perhaps make it less worthy of the attention of the public. But the author, fearful it might some time or other find its way into the world charged with the additional errors of transcribers, thought it expedient to commit it himself to the press, that he may be answerable only for his own. To the judgment of the public therefore (even under the difadyantage

ADVERTISEMENT.

advantage above-mentioned) he readily refers it; perfuaded that, if he shall appear to have an heart warm in the interest of humanity, and alive to the feelings of social virtue, their candour will induce them to throw a veil over the imperfections of this domestic elegy.

THE

THE.

CAVE OF DEATH.

ANELEGY.

I.

THE folemn dirge hath ceas'd---yon vault contains Another victim which my heart held dear:

'Tis nature bids me give to grief the reins,
And urges from my eye the fwelling tear.

II.

With-hold, my friends, your too officious aid,
Uninterrupted let my forrows flow;
I mean to view this mansion of the dead
With all the decent luxury of woe.

III. Hail,

III.

Hail, awful gloom, congenial horrors hail,
Where my full bosom finds some short relief,
Where nature's efforts may at large prevail,
'Till patience come, and make me smile at grief.

IV.

Tremendous fight! The taper's glimm'ring ray,
Reflected from the pendent damps above,
Throws o'er this Cave of Death a transient day,
And guides my footsteps to those friends I love.

V.

In Death I love them: His vindictive arm
May hurl the bolt, or point th' envenom'd dart;
Still, still survives th' indissoluble charm,
Which grafts their dear idea to my heart.

VI.

Now Mem'ry wakes; rais'd by her magic pow'r Scenes of past bliss my present peace annoy, She paints in livelier tints each festive hour To Friendship sacred, and domestic joy.

VII. Various

. 1.

VII.

Various our lot: In youth's propitious dawn
We greet with rapture life's approaching day,
While pleasure spreads the flow'r enamel'd lawn,
And social intercourse beguiles the way.

VIII.

But foon, alas! this fancied vision's o'er,

The paths we tread more dark, more dreary grow;

Our lost companions fall to rise no more,

And all beyond is solitude and woe.

IX.

Too well my bosom feels this painful truth, While at my feet those dear associates lie, Whose sage experience warn'd my wayward youth Of many a snare, of many a danger nigh.

X.

When passion would mislead, when griefs assail, Sweet is the voice of friendship to our ear, Sweet is the sound of love's endearing tale; But Death presides, and all is silence here.

C

XI. Hence

XI.

Hence, ye profane! in fecret, and unseen
His ruthless works at leisure I'll survey:
May none intrude, while Sorrow's sable queen
Moves with slow progress on, and leads the way.

XII.

'Midst the sad group, promiscuous as they lie,
She stops, and pauses o'er a brother's urn,
Whose bosom never felt one anxious sigh,
Whose heart Affliction never taught to mourn.

XIII.

For, ere ten moons were past, his infant head

Laid low in earth was snatch'd from worldly care,

Before he knew to wail a mother dead,

Or pour his sorrows o'er a father's bier.

XIV.

Your parents earliest joy, their only hope,
For you they form'd the visionary plan,
Gave to their social feelings all their scope,
While their fond fancy rear'd you up to man.

XV. Joyous

XV.

Joyous with you they hail the rifing morn,
No grief annoys them, and no fear alarms:
Ere night approach, diftracted, and forlorn
They grafp you pale, and breathless in their arms.

XVI.

Oft would my Sire this piteous tale relate,
Oft have I feen his bosom pant for you,
And, while he told the story of your fate,
Wip'd from his woe-worn cheek the falling dew.

XVII.

For he was gentle, and by nature kind,

To fuff'rance train'd, and to compassion prone:

The weight of Care press heavy on his mind,

"And Melancholy mark'd him for her own."*

XVIII.

A friend to peace no peace himself he found,
A shaft unlook'd for pierc'd him in his prime;
Deep rankled in his breast the social wound,
He languish'd, pin'd, and fell before his time.

• Gray. C 2

XIX. The

XIX.

The dreadful scene's yet present to my eyes;
Of past events the sad remembrance dear
Recurs asresh, and of a mother's cries
The piercing sound still vibrates on my ear.

XX.

What agonizing horror feiz'd my breaft,
When I rush'd onward to this work of Death,
Saw to his clay-cold lips the mirror prest,
And watch'd impatient his returning breath.

XXI.

"Tis gone for ever; each fond effort fails,

Each art fuggested by connubial love;

For when that tyrant's stern decree prevails,

Nor widow's sighs, nor orphan's tears can move.

XXII.

Each morn, each eve, before the fable train Your hallow'd relicks to this cave convey'd, I fought your couch in filence to complain, And at your fide my duteous homage paid.

XXIII. There

XXIII.

There did I feek, incited by Despair,
My grief with full indulgence to beguile,
And frequent, as I dropt the filial tear,
Thought your lov'd visage smil'd, or seem'd to smile.

XXIV.

Intent I gaz'd, held by that magic charm
Which Melancholy's fons alone can know,
When all at once an uncle's friendly arm
Forc'd me, reluctant, from this scene of woe.

XXV.

Aghast, and trembling as we left the room, Contesting passions in his bosom strove, And, o'er his face while sorrow spread a gloom, Flash'd from his eyes the beams of social love.

XXVI.

Weep not, my child: but learn from what is past.

The ways of God, though dark, are always wise:

Affliction's cup is bitter to the taste,

But genuine Wisdom at the bottom lies.

XXVII. That

XXVIL

That lifelels corfe you left is not your fire, But a cold male of unenlinen'd clay; His better part form'd of aetherial fire Soars to the regions of eternal day.

XXVIII.

Those realms where God omnipotent prefides, Whose boundless mercies o'er this globe extend, Who through life's mazy paths his offspring guides, The widow's comfort, and the orphan's friend.

XXIX.

Lean on his aid, nor doubt a fure reward;
His pow'r will foon another parent rear,
Another friend your infancy to guard;
Believe this truth, for you behold him here.

XXX.

Your father's lips confign'd this last bequest,
This legacy, from which I ne'er will part;
Thus let me lull your struggling foul to rest,
And class the dear deposit to my heart.

XXXI. He

XXXI.

He spoke; and, as he spoke, persuasion mild Flow'd from his lips, and bade my sorrows cease; He smil'd with joy, complacently he smil'd, To see my throbbing bosom hush'd to peace.

XXXII.

His pious hand upheld my feeble youth,
My steps directed with paternal care;
He train'd me early to a love of truth,
Lest Folly might seduce, or vice ensnare.

XXXIII.

But for his gen'rous aid my niggard fate
Had stamp'd disgust on my devoted head,
Driv'n from those paths of learning, which of late
With joy I trod, and panted still to tread.

XXXIV.

His bounties, dealt with an unsparing hand, Gave me with lib'ral leisure to explore The ways of knowledge, join the gen'rous band, Who sought the models chaste of ancient lore.

XXXV. Nor

XXXV.

Nor ended here his love's propitious toil,

When manhood dawn'd, my youthful hopes to raife,

He on my cot bade Independence smile,

And gild with halcyon peace my future days.

XXXVI.

For Av'rice was a stranger to his heart,

That baneful vice, which tempts us to with-hold

Th' intended boon, 'till from our life we part,

And in our latest moments grasp at gold.

XXXVII.

No fecret vice, no fashionable pride,
His little store exhausted to its source;
Poor to himself, but rich to all beside,
He gave to social love its ample force.

XXXVIII.

Through Nature's limits rang'd his ardent zeal,
Zeal which no fordid passion could destroy;
His was the task the wounds of life to heal,
And cause the widow's heart to sing for joy.

XXXIX. Ne'er

XXXIX.

Ne'er will my soul forget that solemn eve, When the thick concourse fill'd this sacred fane; With gratitude each breast was seen to heave, And on your ashes pour the plaintive strain.

XL.

Grief wav'd her wings, and o'er the circle flew, Quick through the whole the foft infection ran; They figh'd, they wept, and feem'd to fay adieu, The poor's best parent, and the friend of man.

XLI.

Blest shade! to us untimely was your fate, Who wish'd you proof against th' attacks of age; Yet you had reach'd life's long-protracted date, And full of years, and glory left this stage.

XLII.

Lo! by your fide another victim lies,
Who fell not by the hand of flow decay;
Early his spirit sought th'etherial skies,
Snatch'd from the world in manhood's vig'rous day.

XLIII. By

D

XLIII.

By nature's bonds, and by affection join'd
We held for ever dear a brother's name;
One common will our mutual hearts combin'd,
Our cares, our joys, our fentiments the fame.

XLIV.

How great those perils which in youth we prove?

How strong those tempests which our passions raise?

One drop of gall, by that enchantress Love

Dash'd in his cup, embitter'd all his days.

XLV.

By beauty's charms and female wiles misled,
His hand he to an artful Syren gave;
The sad remembrance hover'd round his head,
Nor left him 'till he reach'd the silent grave.

XLVI.

Learn hence, ye youths, who range the flow'ry mead,
And quaff that stream where fancied pleasures flow,
That one false step may to destruction lead,
And plunge you headlong in th' abyss of woe.

XLVII. Full



XLVII.

Full oft his heart hath bled at ev'ry vein, In fecret oft he heav'd the pensive sigh, For manly sense forbad him to complain, And lay his griefs before the public eye.

XLVIII.

Yet there were seasons which could care beguile, When he with rapture hail'd the sessive hour, With native humour forc'd the frequent smile, And urg'd the weight of Wit's enchanting pow'r.

• XLIX.

But vain our boasted strength, and fruitless all Our mental faculties, when Death assails; Against his stern unalterable call Nor sense, nor wit, nor eloquence prevails.

L

Is he not here?---Methinks I see him now,
From side to side he turns for ease in vain,
Waits with impatience Death's expected blow,
Torn on the rack of agonising pain.

D 2

LI. How

LI.

How long, he cries, can nature's strength survive Amidst this storm? When will my labours cease, And that long-wish'd for happy hour arrive, Which heav'n ordains shall close my eyes in peace?

LII.

Though sharp his feelings, though on ev'ry pore Stood the big drop, my voice he joy'd to hear, While hiding grief, which inward rag'd the more, I pour'd the balm of comfort in his ear.

LIII.

Fondly he fnatch'd my hand, and prest it hard In his cold palm---At once his pains subside---"The conflict's o'er---Our aged parent guard"---He cast one longing, ling'ring look, and died.

LIV.

Short was this task of love, for now to rest

Her vital frame was hastening through decay,

By time enfeebled, and by cares opprest

Slowly she sunk to Death an easy prey.

LV. Here,

LV.

Here, here you lie, and, if the conscious dead Can listen to the voice of those that mourn, Accept these tears by filial duty shed, An off'ring sacred to your hallow'd urn.

LVI.

Here now you lie, and tranquil peace is thine,

Here now you rest---To you--to all farewell--But why farewell?--This social band I'll join,

Forever join, nor quit this dreary cell.

LVII.

Thus while my passion urg'd me to pursue
This theme, and meditate the plaintive lay;
Quick as a slash of light'ning to my view
An horrid spectre rose, and cross my way.

LVIII.

Trembling I gaz'd astonish'd: Yet to fly
Her kideous form I wish'd not----'Twas Despair;
I knew her by the wildness of her eye,
Her frantic garb, and her dishevell'd hair.

XLI. Her

EUTE.

Moraphy and latel a dagger, and her life.

Keepen the mark and pointed to her break,

Keepe the boom, the Sad: OF imperhent.

You his will lead your weated hear to reft.

LX

https://www.glivestay.in.my.lieukom.cog/d.,
I resolve to historia it, when a finding climm.
The furious efforts of my grice affinag/d.,
And with reliktels loose does back my arm.

LXL

I turn'd, and lo! with heav nly beauty dreft, Of form angelic flood Religion's Queen, In only folds flow'd down her fnow-white well, How'n in her eye, and grace in all her mien.

LXII.

With joy and peace ineffable the fmil'd,
Her voice perfusiive o'er my fenfes ftole,
While with celeftial strains, and accents mild
the calm'd the rising tumult of my foul.

LXIII. With-hold

LXIII.

With-hold your impious hand: rash youth, forbear:
With patience learn to kiss heav'n's facred rod:
Shall human folly, human frailty dare
Presumptuously oppose the will of God?

LXIV.

Before his throne when all creation bows,
And with submission waits his awful doom,
May man alone the gifts his hand bestows
Forbid him at his pleasure to resume?

LXV.

His will be thine: It leads to gen'ral good

By paths your feeble reason cannot trace;

Fix'd as a rock it hath for ages stood

On Justice, Truth, and Mercy's solid base.

LXVI.

O'er the calm scenes of blis his pow'r presides, When tempests rage his arm directs the storm; By various means the human heart he guides, In all it's moral temper seeks to form.

LXVII. O'er

LXVII.

This dark, and awful manfion of the dead,
Which now with anxious horror you furvey,
His merciful decree ordains shall lead
To the bright realms of everlasting day.

LXVIII.

There (on this sea of life no longer tost)

Grief at your feet fast bound shall prostrate lie,
Hope in enjoyment, Faith in sight be lost,
And Death himself absorb'd in victory.







POETIC ESSAYS,

ON

NATURE, MEN, and MORALS.

ESSAY I.

To Dr ASKEW, of Newcastle.



Printed for R. AKENHEAD, jun. in NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, and C. HITCH, in LONDON.

MDCCL

- Bt from Pichering & Chatter



POETIC ESSAYS.

[Price ONE SHILLING and SIXPENCE.]



TO THE

READER.

HE Title Page of this Piece will shew, that it is intended only as a Part of a larger Work; and it may not be improper to acquaint the Reader further, with the Steps that have led the Author to make it publick. It has been customary with him to put into Writing, such Remarks and Observations, as have, on various Occasions, occurred to him, and seemed worthy of Remembrance; whether relative to the visible World, or the Operations of the buman Mind. Within the first, he includes whatever belongs to natural Phænomena and physical Investigation; within the last, whatever appertains to the Conduct of human Life, and the Dispositions, Manners, Opinions, and Morals of Men, so far as they have fallen within the Verge of the Author's Sphere, and his Opportunities and Capacity to judge of. This Method, as singular as it may appear to some, the Author believes, has been of Use, as well as an agreeable Entertainment, to himself. And after reviewing a Collection of these Outsketches and Memorandums of Things, he has thought that if they could be reduced to any certain Design and Model, they might deserve a publick Perusal, as well as some other Productions of the present Times. He has therefore lately amused himself in laying the Fragments together, and disposing them into as natural

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To the READER.

tural a Train, as their incoherent State would admit of: and has also endeavoured to supply the broken Divisions, with such Links and Mediums, as may indifferently well fill up the Intervals, so as to appear one connected Whole, not quite heterogeneous and inconsistent in its Parts. Tho' indeed it must still be own'd a Composition of the looser and less regular kind; and therefore he has not presumed to think the Work deserves any explicit Denomination: But having thrown it into Measure and Rhime, in order to enliven the Descriptions and Sentiments, and give them a more easy and agreeable Turn, he presents his Piece under the indefinite Title of Poetic Essays.

THE first of these Essays is herewith exhibited, by way of Specimen, and to found the Publick for an Opinion of the Work; the Author being determined to regulate his Proceedings by that very important Criterion. For as he is not compelled to throw this Burthen upon his Country, thro' an absolute Necesfity, nor indeed by any extraordinary Motives, either of Self-conceit, or importunate Solicitation of Friends, he thinks he would be unpardonable, if he should continue to disturb his Neighbours, after an unsuccessful Trial of his Abilities to entertain them. But as he apprehends that an Amusement, from which he has reaped both Use and Pleasure to his own Mind, may possibly contribute of the same Fruits to others; he hopes he may be allowed to indulge himfelf in a Delign, much more focial than ambitious, of offering it to publick Participation. And, if he happens to miscarry, it will, however, be some Mitigation of his Fault, that he makes the Experiment with Modelty and a sparing Hand; and, by not perfifting in an Offence, he will at least be feen tacitely to own his Mistake; which may, in some Measure, attone for the Folly of the Attempt. In the mean time, it is thought proper to open before the Readers, as briefly as possible, the Scope of the whole Performance; which is as follows:

DESIGN.

THE genuine Light of uncorrupted and unperverted NATURE, is the great Principle which the Author would raise to View and support; the Existence and sovereign Authority of a DIVINE POWER, he would assert and prove; the Conduct of an universal PROVIDENCE, he would vindicate; as ENTIRE SYSTEM, of most excellent Contrivance and Beauty, fill'd with all possible Good, he would demonstrate. Hence he would endeavour to evince the Immutability of Right and Wrong; on this Foundation, he would shew, that the Structure of true VIRTUE and MORALITY rests; by this Standard he would try all kind of MERIT, to find out and distinguish the real from the counterfeit, in Art and Science, Theory and Practice, Knowledge and Opinion, Law and Custom, Judgment and Taste: And so expose the Errors, Follies, and Vices of Mankind, as to shew them to be an Offspring entirely spurious and fastitious; and such utter Aliens and Foreigners to TRUTH and NATURE, as to render their naked CLAIM most absurd and ridiculous.

ARGUMENT of ESSAY I.

Of the human State, and the Folly and Extravagance of Man in repining at his Condition, and wishing to surmount the Bounds, or alter the Laws of NATURE: And of the mental Advantages, and moral Use, slowing from a right View, and impartial Study of natural Order, and the Beauty and Harmony exhibited in THE WORLD.

A D R R E S S to the Author's Friend, (to 1. 17). Introduction, (to 29). Uncertainty and Vanity of human Projects, (to 43). Fortitude and Refignation, our beft Refource under fuch Difappointments as we could neither forefee nor prevent, (to 59). Human Life, a Mixture of apparent good and evil Fortune: And in proportion as the Profpect of the one, or the other, engages the Mind's Attention, it is affected with more gloomy, or more gay Apprehensions; which unavoidably tincture our Dispositions and external Behaviour, (to 71). No absolute Cure for this internal Fluctuation, (to 75). The Course of Nature, a continual Series of Changes, (to 85). Constancy not more apparent in the Tempers of Men, (to 89). Exemplished by Characters (to 115). Many Vicissitudes of Disposition enumerated, (to 130). Hope chears thro' all, (to 137). The great Art and Virtue of steering in the Track of Moderation, and the Evil of Extreams, (to 155). An uneven and restless Temper characteriz'd, (to 165). Exclamation of a Person dissassing the limited Condition of Man, (to 175). Replied to: 1st. By putting some Queries, relating to Happiness in general: 2stb, By oensidering the Narrowness of his Knowledge, (to 200). Man's Happiness consists in conforming his Desires to his Circumstances, and tasting, with Chearfulness and Satisfaction, the Blessing in his Possessing, that orders and governs the World, (to 247). The Besief of a G on and his Attributes, a proper Basis of Morality, (to 251). Man alone the Author of moral Evil, in departing from N a t u a E; and justily punished, on that Account, with tormenting Anxiety and Disappointment, (to 265). Reason the Discoverer of Trath, and given to Man for a Guide in the Path of Nature, (to 268). This Guide being renounced, the Passon and Appetites run into Disorder; and, in their blind Hurry and Tumult, void of Rule and Principle, occasion Havock and Constitution, (to 279). The Regularity of Natural Phoenomena referred to, as owing to an inviolable Observance of fax'd and simple Laws, (to 285). Parti

ESSAY I.

H S S A Y S

To Dr A S K E W.

WHILE you with lenient hand, around impart,

The healing virtues of Apollo's art;
At ev'ry call, in ev'ry feason fly,
Where'er death threatens with his gastly eye;
The fiend to banish, the diseas'd restore,
Relume those eyes that languishing implore,
Renew the circles of the vital stream,
And pour fresh vigour thro' the human frame:
Amid those cares that press on ev'ry side,
Their ardent suit and must not be deny'd;
How shall the Muse her private audience gain,
Uncensur'd, as impertinent and vain?

A

Some

Some hour of leifure, if 'tis in your power,
One fuch to steal, indulge me with that hour:
I come, not over bold, nor us'd to fear;

15

Judge freely, but before you judge me, hear!

I T lately happen'd, (I forget the day)
That Phwbus struck me with his piercing ray;
Nor business crowding to distract my brain,
Nor cares molesting, nor disturb'd with pain;
20
All disengag'd; so fate decreed the time!
Instant I felt the dang'rous itch of rhyme.
Before me, NATURE'S SCENES arose to light,
And MEN and MORALS open'd on my sight.
Prompt at the view, and rais'd with the conceit, 25
Already fancied I my verse compleat;
A verse to last, for ever to be read,
While Tyne shall flow, or Cheviot lift its head:

Some

Such

Such empty visions form a poet's dream,
Such cloud-built prospects of immortal Fame; 30
Scarce figur'd, but begin to disappear,
Elude his grasp and vanish into Air.

Nor yet alone this fudden fate belongs
To those enamour'd of the Muses' songs.
As wretched fortune and as short a day,
Snatch far more proud and pompous names away;
As quickly rise, as quickly mounted high,
Surprize like meteors, and like meteors die.
While humbler projects just appear to swell,
One moment forms and breaks the filmy shell. 40
Thence hear the disappointed, still exclaim,
This world is but a bubble, but a dream!
And may, when bubbles burst and dreams are o'er,
The wak'd be landed on some happier shore!

Where

Where fix'd, eternal 'bide the feals of fame, 45
Nor ever blot obliterates a name.
But while we walk this maze of human life,
Surrounded with its various braids of strife;
Since, members of the ever rolling ball,
With good, we must partake the bad and all; 50
The ills and mischiefs that can life betide,
Or sprung from folly, or produc'd by pride;
It but remains we act the part of man,
And keep our pace as steady as we can.
In vain fond hope would more than this supply, 55
One bliss continued, one unbroken joy;
Tho' such blest views may tend a higher sphere,
The seat of Angels is not destin'd here.

Thro' all conditions of the mortal state,
A compound operates, a mixed fate;
60
Thro'

Thro' endless turns and changes varied still;
And checker'd with apparent good and ill:
And as we scan the worse and better part,
Or this elates or that appals the heart.
Now passion blackens in the troubl'd breast, 65
All nature's sick and human life's unblest;
Now flow fresh spirits and dispel the gloom,
Gay pleasure dances and the world's in bloom:
The morning lowr'd, and sunk and sad the soul;
But mirth and madness drain the evening bowl. 70
And say, if any art in human pow'r,
Howe'er apply'd, this levity can cure?
No draught, or bolus, potion, drop, or pill!
Nor Mead's prescription, nor can Askew's skill.

A swift mutation thro' the world we find, 75 Obtains in matter and obtains in mind.

B

Here

Here would we fix it, or by force restrain? It breaks out there and shews th' attempt is vain. Still Nature recent, her rotation plies; Confirms thro' change, by contrast beautifies. 80 Ends to begin, begins to gain the end; Falls but to rife, but rifes to descend; Makes wide extreams a near alliance feel, And all revolve in one inceffant wheel. If passions bear us on a swelling tide, 85 The furge of passion quickly will subside; And boast exalted reason as we may, Moments there are when reason will give way. Thus all the feafons in fuccession run, And days and nights obedient to the fun; 90 So shifts the wind and round th' horizon blows, And so the restless ocean ebbs and flows.

Prisco salutes you as a friend to-day, His candour flowing, and his temper gay;

To-

To-morrow should you meet him in the streets, 95
He meets you there, but knows not that he meets;
Stalks on reserv'd, and wrapt in sullen pride,
Is far too stiff to turn his head aside;
And scarce you find two creatures differ more,
Than Prisco from himself the day before. 100

SEE fordid VARUS! so compleat a knave,
His very friends will own the devil must have;
Yet has his Interval, his social hour,
Can treat, cares, may sometimes will do more;
Get drunk, grow lavish, throw about his pelf; 105
But when turn'd sober, hates and damns himself.

EVEN I, who now attempt the Muse's strain, Warm with her fire, and feel the flowing vein; Who view the crowding images incline, To join my verse and meet the ready line; 110 Wait but a moment, and the vision sades, The prospect darkens and dissolves in shades;

A chilness seizes on my clouded brain, And clogg'd, I labour for a verse in vain.

Thus made the sport of fortune or of chance;

Backward to flide, or forward to advance;
To taste and lose the taste of good and ill,
To action push'd, or burthen'd to stand still;
We struggle thro' all changes, laugh and fret,
Rejoice and mourn, are merry, in a pet;
I20
Wax proud and humble, open and disguise;
Or herd with sools, or mingle with the wise;
Now all for business, all for pleasure now,
Without a single question, why? or how?
Time hurries on, we stop not to enquire,
I25
But snatch in haste, as prompts each new defire.
Still on the brink of all we love and hate,
From this to that for ever vacillate:

Or to the gusts of passion fall a prey,
Or slit on vanity's light wings away.

Yet still hope's slatt'ring mirrour chears the soul,
And urges forward to the promis'd goal.
Or if man grovels, or he soars on high,
Still happiness is figur'd in his eye;
New phantoms rise incessant to his view,
Still found illusive, ever fancied true.

And wisdom's son is he, who knows the art,
So true to poise, and smoothly calm his heart;
That when full expectation meets a blank,
Tho' felt the shock, yet he preserves his rank; 140
Or shaken gently, yet is shook with grace,
And yielding softly, surer keeps his place.
A conduct, form'd to honour Nature's plan!
True moderation is the praise of man.
Appointed in a middle state to shine,
145
Betwixt the brutal nature and divine;

C

Of each partaking, while a mortal here, In vain from either struggles to get clear;

But duly temp'ring both, erects that frame,

That beauteous structure which we VIRTUE

name. To stand or to playing ment 150

Who to extreams is driven, by chance or will,

Must find the sure event unhappy still.

The cell, where rest immur'd all human joys,

Wild passion bursts and apathy destroys.

OBSERVE in VARIO'S most unbalanc'd mind,

An abstract of the tempers of mankind;
What in excess belongs to him, we see
Belongs to all, in great or less degree;
In midst of plenty, want besets his door,
And full of riches, he's extreamly poor:

160
Enjoying pleasure, is with pleasure cloy'd;
In hope's fruition, quite dissatisfy'd;

Pof-

Possest of blessings, still remains unblest, And restless most, when leisure bids him rest.

Hypo exclaims, unhappy state of things! 165
That sure content from no condition springs;
But spight of all that priests or sages preach,
Man hunts for ever what is out of reach;
Or if he touch, the very touch destroys,
And lost th' enjoyment, just as he enjoys! 170
Thus baulk'd and busy, blunders thro' his years,
Till death, to drop the empty scene, appears.
Is this the gift of heav'n, ye learned, show?
A droll, a jest, a mock'ry and a woe!

PRESUMPTUOUS critic! moderate thy haste;

Thy temper heats, thy censure runs too fast. Wilt thou at all, as vain and wrong, repine, That suits not every wanton wish of thine?

Is there no goodness short of very best; Nor bleft below the most supreme of bleft? 180 Bestow'd is nothing, where not all is given; Nor height beneath the fummit of high heaven? No dwelling happy, nor rejoic'd abode; That mounts not on the very throne of God? This shocks all common sense! - then see asfign'd, 185 Bliss in degree to each degree of mind; And as the mental scale ascends in height, Still broader runs and spreads to infinite. To man, a proper happiness for man; Whose scanty being measures but a span. 190 Receive it, mortal! with a grateful mind; Or if it lingers, learn to wait refign'd.

The laws that bind all beings to agree,

Are dimly feen, if feen at all by thee:

So much fee clearly of thy narrow state, 195
'Tis wrong to murmur, and 'tis right to wait.

Perhaps what you an evil understood,

Is but the line that limits human good:

Which, who once passes or desires to pass,

Is guided by less reason than an ass. 200
The highest pitch in morals we can reach,

Is not to aim in nature's bounds a breach;

But so conduct our action and our will,

As suits our state, which is the middle still:

And who but leans to that extream or this, 205

Inclines to folly, and departs from bliss.

In vain insatiate appetite would roam;
The stint which nature sets, is plac'd at home;
Includes both high and low, and great and small;
A common parent's common care of all.

Just what we use is ours, and ours the more. The less we're anxious to enlarge the store.

D

On

On fordid gain, who fets his vehement heart, Finds more and more, but less and less impart. If thousands heap on thousands, still the fight, 215 But keener whets his restless appetite and all But he who little views with chearful eyes, in W Will find that little may enough fuffice; Jing al If wants external, break not inward peace, on T He quaffs his cup of joy and lives at ease. 220 Not, but our bosoms ask for temp'rate gales, And that the passions gently swell their sails; Yet so, that reason in their top career, dw bala May still command, and free from danger steer: Thus, the black storms and breaking waves 225 thint which nature lets is plathgirla vone; We bound o'er gentle furges with delight. Kind motion is the fource of life and joy, on A And rest alone gives death its victory.

IMPARTIAL Providence, an equal cause, Unbiass'd rules the world by gen'ral laws; 230 Firm to one end, prefides from pole to pole; Not prone to parts, but careful of the whole. The whole, a fystem fram'd by perfect art, Where ev'ry individual has its part; Link'd and allied, fo fit and justly plac'd, That good in one, diffuses thro' the rest. Then spare the Power, that fix'd the central sun, And taught the planets in what orbs to run: Who gave them fpeed and force, without decay, While ages wear, and time dissolves away: 240 Who turns the feafons on the rolling sphere, Devolving all the changes of the year. Who works forever thro' the heav'ns and earth, And brings all nature pregnant to its birth; The birth produc'd, both orders and fustains, 245 And guides, omnipotent! th' eternal reins.

HERE

HERE fix our basis, own the Power divine: And one immense, wise, perfect, good design; Where all fubfifts that can, of happiness, And if there evil be, can be no less. 250 In man, and only man, that evil find; Who boasts of morals and a reasining mind: The rest of all that live, enjoy their state, In its full blifs, nor murmur at their fate: The shortest liv'd, rejoice their fleeting day, 255 The longest, patient pass their slow decay. What! then alone shall he complaints let fall, Who vaunts himself the mighty lord of all? Grow fick with spleen upon his fancied throne, Yet still high crested, call the world his own? 260 Strange contradiction! piec'd of wild extreams, The flave's worst fears, ambition's maddest dreams. But fuch the wretch's curse, and right bestow'd, On him, who headstrong, breaks from nature's road: That

| Eff. I. | D | 0 | E | T | T | C | E | C | C | Δ | V | C |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| E11. 1. | - | V | T | 1 | 1 | - | L | O | 0 | 1 | 1 | O. |

That road where truth's fair day-beam ever glows, 265

And where no night her fable curtain draws; But clear-ey'd reason lifts the guiding ray, And shews for ever God's eternal day. But hapless mortals, drawn by lust or pride,

When once renouncing reason for their guide; 270

Wild-wand'ring, foon in devious paths are croft,

And in a wilderness of errors lost.

Blind passion hurries, with the tide they swim,

No rule directs, 'tis fancy all and whim:

Now this, now that way, downward, upward thrown, with the vice the contract contract

Laugh on bright clouds, or whelm'd in darkness

And err'd from truth, and wide of nature's plan, Sink far below, by aiming high'r than man.

OB-

OBSERVE the measur'd world, and mark its laws!
How steady these, how uniform the cause? 280
To complex ends, what simple means conduce,
Deriv'd from frugal springs, what streams profuse?
Thro' all th' effects, worlds infinite contain,
No labour useless, nothing done in vain!

SEE, tho' apart each planet asks a fun,

To form and rule a fystem, needs but one;

That one, if alter'd, or that one destroy'd,

Each planet wanders, of all order void;

But fix'd and station'd at its proper goal,

Gives light and life and vigour to the whole: 290

Whence perfect harmony and beauty springs,

The full firm balance and consent of things.

And what in this one system you explore,

Conclude, adjusts and orders millions more;

One pow'r, one principle, unmix'd, unchang'd, 295

That form'd each orb, proportion'd and arrang'd,

Reach-

Reaching, pervading ev'ry distant ball, Eternal, chains the aggregate of all!

HERE, man! derive thy lessons, here's thy school, Where thou alone can'ft cease to be a fool. 300 In nature's book the weakest brain may speed, Th' untaught may learn it, and th' unletter'd read; Nor need of pedant, or a pedant's rod, The book of nature is the work of Gop. A fair original, not far to feek, 305 Nor writ in bebrew characters nor greek; But in a speech that never fails to strike, In ev'ry nation plain and full alike; Which no tradition cloaks in mystery, Nor priests corrupt, nor bigots can bely, Nor flames devour, nor dark oblivion hide, Nor time abridge; but still displays more wide. Learn NATURE then! within thy proper sphere, Compos'd, give gracious Providence thine ear.

Eye

Eye God's creation, see what order shines, 315 What power preserves, what wisdom all designs: What bliss and beauty thro' the whole arise, In teeming earth and o'er the spacious skies! Far drive thy impious doubts, nor murmur more; Enjoy thy state with thanks, and God adore. 320

ALAS! these precepts that my verse imparts, Employ men's heads, but seldom reach their hearts.

Of God and Nature, tho' we reason high,
Neglect the better science to apply.
Our love of knowledge rises out of pride, 325
While all its use to life is thrown aside.
And idly we the works of nature scan,
If nothing moral thence accrues to man;
'f nought from outward harmony we find,
That vibrates inward and attunes the mind 330

To me, in vain ten thousand systems roll, If no fixt purpose regulates my foul; If none of that grand order which I fee, Nor due proportion reaches down to me. Wretch! whose cold heart benumb'd to every charm, in the second second 335

All Nature's ardour has not power to warm!

WHAT nobler views his rifing foul inspire, And touch his bosom with celestial fire! Who reasoning from th' effect, explores the cause, And reads the legislator in his laws; 340 Sees near ally'd and close embracing join'd, The pow'rs of body and the pow'rs of mind; Where all receive and all affiftance lend, Impell'd conjointly to their destin'd end; With unremitting ardour to fulfil, 345 One steady purpose, one almighty will. Smit with this union of the gen'ral frame, His foul is rouz'd and feels the living flame; TO

To copy nature's harmony aspires,

And burns t'embrace the beauty it admires; 350
Thence, pleas'd transplants, to deck his humble sphere,

The just, the decent, elegant and fair;

And grows in judgment just, in fancy chaste,

In reason clear, and delicate in taste:

Or feeling kind affections feize his mind, 355

His heart dilating opens to mankind;

And shares the highest bliss his state can prove,

From that divinest passion, social love.

When pure good humour dances in the eye,

What joy so great as that of giving joy? 360

And where no envy nor refentments reign,

What pain can equal that of caufing pain?

Thus from the same great source connected springs,

The good in morals and in nat'ral things.

inO foul is room'd and feels the living flame

Eff. I. POETIC ESSAYS.

On NATURE, this prime fountain God bestows,

23

Thence, seen and felt by man, to mankind flows:
That honour, he by merit may obtain;
The praise and glory that he thirsts to gain.
For this, his face divine is rais'd on high,
Unstopp'd his ear, and op'd his lucid eye; 370
His nerves made tremble to their inmost cell,
At ev'ry pulse of feeling, taste and smell;
Thence to the soul the quick sensations led,
Now shake the heart, and now illume the head.

SEE, all around, the myriads that conspire! 375
To touch, to raise, to waken and to fire.
The breathof heav'n, the morning's chearful dawn;
The peaceful flocks along the verdant lawn;
High-waving woods and gently rising hills,
Swift-gliding rivers, silver-purling rills;
380
Soft

Soft fanning breezes, lover-haunted shades,
Broad shining lakes, and headlong rough cascades;
Soul-soothing grottos, Ceres-laughing vales,
Wild-warbling birds and song-resounding dales;
Flowers breathing odours, fruit that autumn
brings,

Full-bubbling fountains and free-gushing springs; Th' extended plains that wide in prospect lie, The swelling ocean and the vaulted sky.

These, and ten thousand more, heaving vast ex-

pence,

Nature's whole stock that pours on ev'rysense! 390. Shall they not high our contemplation raise,
And fill our hearts with gratitude and praise?

Ev'n here, in this cold region of the north,
These animate the Muse, and call her forth;
To soar intrepid on advent'rous wing,
395
To sing of Nature, and to point the spring;
Whose

Whose streams diffus'd, the whole supplies impart, Of ev'ry science and of ev'ry art: Whate'er ennobles or can man befriend, His manners polish or his morals mend; 400 All blifs of ev'ry kind and each degree, Still flows, great substitute of Goo! from thee. In vain, would erring wits of human race, Set up fantastic idols in thy place; Or wrapt in clouds, or cover'd under night, 405 The phantoms fly, when dawns thy hallow'd light; They fly, and ev'n their votaries for sake; Empty and wild as dreams to men awake. Nor ought can e'er this verse's date prolong, If NATURE keeps conceal'd and shuns my fong; to me want viole about to alm 410

But would fhe deign to bless me with her smile, And lend her stores to deck the pleasing toil!

of the deside of the Granton of the Glad,

Glad, should the muse awake the dorick reeds, Paint as she paints, and follow where she leads; With all her fav'rite train to join her lay, 415 And found her acclamations on the way. Or face her foes, who strive to stain her stream, With foul pollution, or to cloud her beam: That those who rashly err, might be reclaim'd, And knaves convict, stand open and asham'd. 420

AND tho' too weak may flow my lowly line, Unequal to the height of this defign; Yet shall my honest purpose yield delight, Conscious of wishing well and aiming right; Far, far remov'd from courtiers and from cits, 425 Nor aw'd by criticks, nor afraid of wits; My vale of peace, their buzz can ne'er annoy, Nor pierce the fanctuary of my joy: Not rash in purpose, but yet steel'd to bear, Unruffled, pride's contempt and folly's fneer. 430 Thro'

Thro' life's tumultuous scenes howe'er I drive,
No dupe or slave of any one alive:
Tho' humbly station'd, of no base degree,
Above me many, some below, I see;
Nor buoy'd with hopes of mighty things to
come,

435

Nor funk in dread of any future doom;
But walk this world, and upwards look to heaven,
With expectations tolerably even.
Nor quite with fo much orthodoxy cramm'd,
To think all elfe but true believers damn'd; 440
Nor yet an infidel fo indifcreet,
To give up all religion as a cheat;
But this I hold, and will unto my grave,
A God exifts, and I've a foul to fave;
That God will favour and approve the man 445
Who most observes and best pursues his plan:

His

His plan, that ev'ry creature, ev'ry foul,
Should fpread the good which he defigns the
whole;

To this, that action, passion, reason, tend;

VIRTUE the means, and HAPPINE'S sthe end.

450

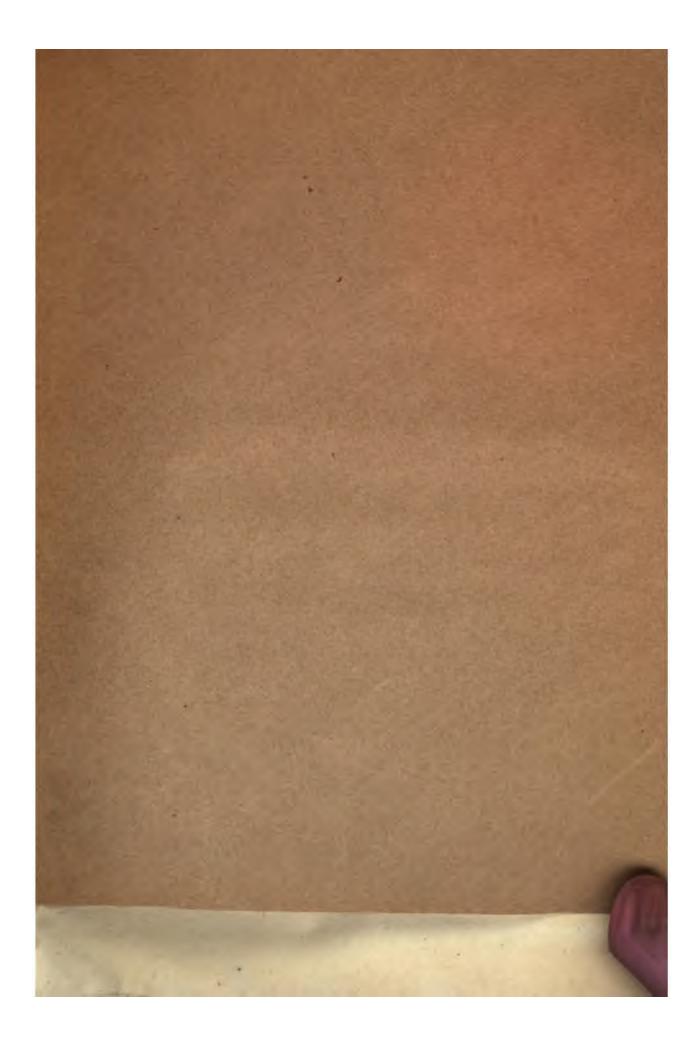
Nor funde in dreath of the president;
But walks time world, and upwards look to heaven,
With expectations tolerably even a section of the property of the prop

To think all tile betterne besterers damn'd; each Morgenan infilled so indiferent, and To give up all religion as a check; and this I hold, and will but o my grave, and A Gop exists, and I've a foul to fave; That Gop mile ground approve the man easy with another course the man easy with another course the man easy with another course the man easy

Who molt side wes and bulk purfice his plan :









POETICAL ADDRESS

HIS MAJESTY:

OCCASIONED BY THE

LATE ROYAL VISIT

TO'

WORCESTER,

AT THE

MEETING of the THREE CHOIRS,
Held AUGUST the 6th, 1788.

Dedicated, with Permission, to the KING.

By THEOPHILUS SWIFT, Efq.

| | Præsens | Divus | habebitur | |
|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|------|
| Augustus. | _ | | | Hor. |

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M.DCC.LXXXVIII.

:799 d 1713.



DEDICATION.

To the King.

SIR,

YOUR MAJESTY's gracious Permiffion, that I might dedicate the following Address to you, I consider as the highest honour that could be conferred on

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most loyal,

And most obedient subject,

WORCESTER, August 15, 1788.

THEOPHILUS SWIFT.

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•



See from their conche a HT COT to vigour find

KIN made in the second of the Gard of the King was a bund

FAME gave the word: — the Muse impassion'd springs,

(A grateful odour dropping from her wings,)

To greet the Prince, whose Virtues grace the lay,

Whose Presence gives new lustre to the day.

Oh! let the meanest of the lyric throng

Approach his Monarch with no flattering song,

B

Pour

Pour the warm tide of rapture, and impart The full effusion of the Loyal Heart. See, round the Father of his people press The Young, the Old! — And all that Father bless ! See, from their couch the Sick with vigour spring! The Lame shall leap, to meet and hail their King: Proud Grandeur bends, and willing Duty pays The heart-felt homage of her zeal and praise. The folar King, whose glorious beams convey Light to the world, and warmth in every ray, On all benignant smiles, his fostering care To all extends, and all his radiance share. Thus You, great Sir, your various bleffings deal, Cheer with your presence, with your bounty heal;

Lend

Lend ev'n to Charity a lowlier hue,

While grateful Thousands draw support from You.

Shall any joyless sound approach thine ear?

Shall Sorrow sigh, or Mis'ry murmur here?

Thy Smiles new comfort to the Orphan bring;

Through Thee for joy the Widow's heart shall sing.

Blest Prince! uniting to thy people's love.

Glory's own Eagle with sweet Pity's Dove.

Nor shalt THOU, gracious Queen, be lest unsung.

The Matron's pride, and theme of every tongue.

O blest with all that cheers or brightens life,

The careful Mother, and the tender Wife!

Born

Born to command, yet zealous to obey,

And ruling more by Kindness than by Sway.

Thy fair Example, as a Mirror bright,

Beams like the Star, that gilds the world with light.

Thy Smill a seri comfore to the Deplian bring;

But what new Glory breaks upon the day!

What Odours breathe! What Sweets perfume the way!

Behold Three Graces of the Royal Line,

Three Sifter Graces in the circle shine.

Bright as the Dew-drop, that impearls the thorn,

Fresh as the Rose-bud, opening to the morn,

Soft as the Zephyr, as the Summer fair,

The Boast of beauty, and the nation's care.

Welcome,

Welcome, blest Visitants, to these glad walls!

'Tis LOYALTY that speaks, and TRUTH that calls.

With Lips of roly grace, and Wings of flame,

First from the spheres the Seraph, Music, came.

The heaven-born Stranger, longing to impart

To wondering Man the lessons of her art,

Unlock'd the secret sources of the Soul,

And entering there, maintain'd her strong controut.

All as she sung, sweet Charity drew near,

Devotion mark'd, and lean'd from Heav'n to hear.

Wak'd into transport, Handel's muse of fire

Caught the blest Sounds, and struck th' immortal Lyre.

As o'er the chords his daring hand he flings,

The cherub Piery, exulting, fings;

Religion lifts her voice; her foaring foul

New ardours kindle, as the raptures roll.

Towering she stands; and more than mortal, shrouds

Her awful head within her kindred clouds.

To wondering Man the Iglians of hir art,

But not in vain the facred notes afcend,

Pleas'd Heav'n admires, and Angels round attend;

PRAYER'S hallow'd Spirit to Th' ETERNAL bears

Th' accepted founds, and wafts them to the fpheres.

Thus Heav'n thy Church regards, that ne'er shall die,

Fix'd on that Rock whose summit tops the sky:

Distinguish'd

Distinguish'd thus, and favour'd high o'er all The proud dominions of this earthly ball, Secure in Piety, Thy Throne shall last, When Kingdoms fail, and Power itself is past. See PEACE once more the smiling Olive brings! Dove-like she comes, with healing on her wings. In her fair train attendant PLENTY flands, The pregnant Horn uplifted in her hands. Free COMMERCE spreads her canvass to the gales, Courts the kind breeze, and stretches all her sails. For her the spices of Arabia blow, For her the golden tides of Indus flow; She dares the mighty darkness of the Mine, And braves the burning dangers of The Line.

These

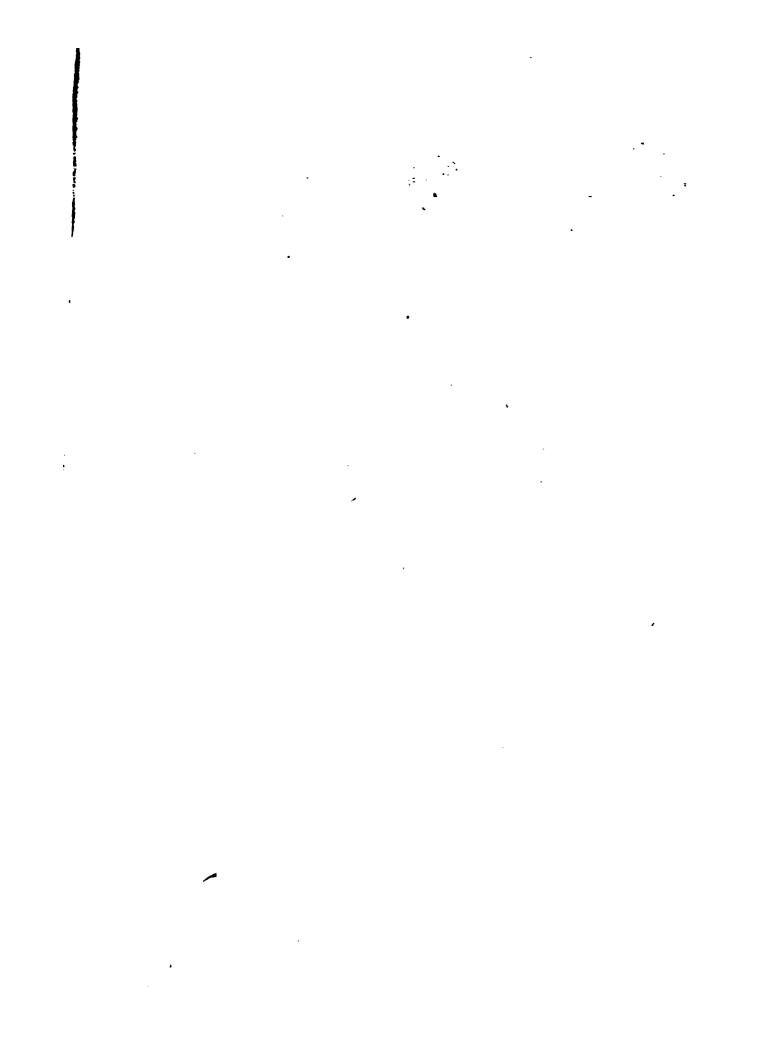
These are thy noblest praise: and these shall long
Th' Historian's care engage, and charm the song
Of many a Bard, whose quick prophetic eyes,
As the fair Glories of Thy reign arise,
Shall view the Native of the Southern Clime,
Whose sun-scorch'd colour was his only crime,
Kiss the sweet healing hand, whose Grace extends
That Life, that Liberty, thy Mercy sends.

(Mercy! immortal Rose! — The fairest Flower
That blows in Heav'n, or decks the brow of Power:)
Safe in his native shades, and plantain groves,
He sings, he feasts, he woos his sable Loves.

(13)

His active spirit takes a bolder wing,
And Afric's sons redeemed shall hail their King!





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